

Maggie
Daly



AUTHOR CLYDE W. BURLESON told us, "As far as the government is concerned, the whole thing never happened. I received a letter recently from George Bush [former CIA director] and he said, 'I don't know what you are talking about.'"

But what Burleson is talking about in his book, "The Jennifer Project" [Prentice-Hall], is the recovery of a sunken Soviet submarine with the latest nuclear data of the time. The recovery was done by a specially built ship of Howard Hughes' Summa Corp. Everyone working on that project was sworn to secrecy.

Burleson said over lunch in the Playboy Club, "I read a small item in the Los Angeles Times and wrote my fictionalized account. My agent said, 'Get the real story.' I never wrote a fact book before, but I went to a computer center and got almost a foot-locker of material about the Jennifer Project, and it didn't agree with CIA accounts. I talked with scientists, engineers, and people in bars and received calls in the middle of the night. There was a lot of intrigue, but it shows what a private citizen really can do. The information the U.S. received was invaluable at the time and gave us a position at the SALT talks that would not have been available otherwise." Burleson's next book will be on atomic energy.